(d) whether Govt., will consider giving more fiscal incentives for exploiting the minor oils by the soap and vanaspati industries in order to save foreign exchange in importing edible oils ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) The requirement of edible oils in the country in the current year is estimated to be around 60 lakh MT. As against this the nett domestic supply of edible oils is estimated at around 52 lakh MT.

(b) and (c) The production of edible oils from all minor oils sector is estimated to be around 6.3 lakh MT at present as compared to around 3.2 lakh MT in 1985-86. The details of fiscal incentives given by the Government for use of certain specified oils in the manufacture of vanaspati as on date are as under :—

Fixed veg. oils.	Excise rebate per MT of oil used in vanaspati
1. Rice bran oil	5,000
2. Mahua oil	6,500
3. Watermelon seed oil	6,500
4. SE cottonseed oil	4,000
5. SE Mustard/Rapeseed oil	3,250
6. SE Sun flower oil	3,250
7. SE safflower oil	3,250
8. Palm oil	3,250
9. SE sesame oil	3,250
10. Sal seed fat	3,250

(d) Decision will be taken at an appropriate time.

Poor maintenance Position of PDS

1158. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Times of India dated the 14th April, 1992 under the heading "Poor monsoon may hit PDS".

(b) if so, whether Government agree with the views expressed therein, if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to overcome the difficulties mentioned therein and if the reply is in the negative the reasons which led to the issue of such a report ; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take for success of PDS in such a situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Press Rleease of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) referred to in the Newspaper Report stated that "India is probably heading towards a 'normal' monsoon but again on the lower side of normal, with the possibility of the coming monsoon being somewhat sluggish to begin with." It was also mentioned that this assessment was tentative and that the final and quantitative forecast of the 1992 South-West monsoon would be available by the end of May, 1992. The Newspaper Report perhaps does not fully reflect the spirit of this press release of IMD.

(c) The views of IMD have ben taken note of by the Government. Measures in

consultation with the State Governments concerned have been taken for maximising the procurement in the rabi marketing season keping in view the food security aspect and the requirements of the PDS. The State Governments have expressed support and cooperation in this regard.

Unauthorised Vanaspati Units

1159. SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a High-Level Technical Committee appointed by Government in its Report has conclusively held that Vanaspati Units with minimum economic size of 25 tonnes per day entail an investment of not less than Rs. 2.5 crores on plant and machinery ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some unscrupulous parties by showing clandestinely an investment of less than Rs. 65 lakhs have set up Vanaspati Units in Small Scale Sector and have also manipulated to secure BIS Certification Mark for sale of their products ; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to stop functioning of such unauthorised Units resulting in unhealthy and unequal competition among Vanaspati Manufacturers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) A High-Level Technical Committee appointed by the Government in its Report in 1987-88 concluded that a vanaspati unit with minimum economic size of 25 tonnes per day entails an investment of not less than 1.6 crores for batch type plant and machinery. However for continuous type of units it will be much higher.

(b) and (c) Bureau of Indian Standards has been advised to cancel ISI Certification Mark wherever granted in respect of units which have not got regularised by the revised industrial policy of July, 1991.

Edible Oils

1160. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the country would meet the requirement of edible oil with its indigenous production ;

(b) if not what are the reasons thereof ; and

(c) in what manner Government plan to meet the requirement during the Eighth Five Year Plan, with details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) No, Sir, The shortfall between demand for and availability of edible oils from indigenous sources is estimated to be around 7 lakh MTs. this year.

(c) Government has taken a number of measures to augment the indigenous production of oilseeds. Some of the measures are increased emphasis on the implementation of the oilseeds production programmes of the Government of India, support to oilseeds projects of NDDB, assistance for oil palm development, increasing areas under non traditional oilseed crops like soyabean, sunflower etc. exploitation of oilseeds of tree and forest origin, rice bran, intensification of research efforts for increasing production of oilseeds as also for fuller exploitation of oils from oil-bearing materials etc.

As a short term measure, Government intends to import a limited quantity of edible oils to partly meet the shortfall between demand for and availability of edible oils.

Import of Edible Oil

1161. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to import large quantity of edible oils to meet the demands of the public in the country ; and